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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:JSDAVISON:MEM
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S/S - MR. MOFFAT
C:MR. DOBBINS
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S E C R E T STATE 122749 TOSEC 020020

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E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT:CSCE: REPLY TO SOVIETS ON CBM'S

REF: GENEVA 3837

YOU SHOULD CONTACT KOVALEV AND INDICATE THAT SECRETARY HAS ASKED YOU TO CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS GROWING OUT OF YOUR SOUNDINGS OF ALLIES FOLLOWING CONVERSATIONS WITH GROMYKO IN VIENNA RE CBM'S PARAMETERS.

-- OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ALLIES IN LAST FEW DAYS INDICATE THAT NEW SOVIET PROPOSAL ON PARAMETERS COULD BE EXPECTED TO ELICIT A GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE.

-- AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, SOVIETS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT NONE OF THE ALLIES IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOVIET PROPOSAL -- 18 DAYS, 30,000 TROOPS, 150 KM -- AS A FINAL
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SOLUTION TO PARAMETERS PROBLEM. SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET

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MOVED FAR ENOUGH IN DIRECTION OF ALLIES.

-- AS TO PRIORITIES AMONG DIFFERENT PARAMETERS, THE ALLIES CONTINUE TO ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO (A) AREA OF USSR TO BE COVERED AND (B) THRESHOLD FOR SIZE OF EXERCISES TO BE NOTIFIED. THEREFORE WE BELIEVE SOVIETS

WILL HAVE TO SHOW FURTHER FLEXIBILITY ON BOTH OF THESE PARAMETERS TO MAKE PROGRESS. HOWEVER, THE AREA OF THE USSR TO BE COVERED REMAINS THE MOST BASIC PROBLEM, AND THE SOVIETS SHOULD FOCUS THEIR MAJOR ATTENTION ON THIS. 150 KM COVERAGE OF USSR WOULD NOT BE AN ACCEPTABLE OUTCOME. DEEPER ZONE IS REQUIRED.

-- IN OUR VIEW NEXT STEP SHOULD BE FOR SOVIETS TO TABLE MORE AMPLE PARAMETERS WHICH WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALLIED VIEWS.

-- WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK ACTIVELY WITH ALLIES TO DEVELOP A FORTHCOMING RESPONSE TO A SOVIET PROPOSAL WHICH IN ITSELF GIVES EVIDENCE OF FLEXIBILITY AND REALISM ON THE IMPORTANT MATTERS WE HAVE INDICATED.

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